

17 a slot formed across the ridge, wherein when the cap is
18 threaded onto the bottle neck, the slot forms a pathway for gas
19 generated in the bottle to escape through the opening and across
20 the bottle neck rim and through the gas path.--

1 -- ³⁸~~45~~. A vented bottle cap system as recited in claim ³⁷~~44~~
2 comprising:

3 a plurality of concentric ridges formed in the first
4 surface of the annular section; and

5 at least a slot in each ridge.--

1 -- ³⁹~~46~~. A vented bottle cap system as recited in claim ³⁸~~45~~ wherein
2 at least a slot in each ridge is radially aligned with a slot in an
3 adjacent ridge.--

1 -- ⁴⁰~~47~~. A vented bottle cap system as recited in claim ³⁷~~44~~ therein
2 the insert is made from plastic.--

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action mailed on February 15, 2000. Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 15-19, 21-25, 32, 36 and 37 have been amended. Claims 2, 33-35 and 38-40 have been canceled. Claims 41-47 have been added. Claims 1, 3-32, 36 and 40-47 are now pending in this application. Reconsideration on the basis of the above amendments and remarks below is kindly requested.

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). An amendment to the drawings is filed concurrently herewith under separate cover for approval and addresses the Examiner's objections

to the drawings. Specifically, FIGS. 13 and 14 have been added and FIGS. 10, 11 and 12 have been amended. FIG. 13 discloses a combination of a bottle neck, cap and disk having a circular ridge and a slot formed there across as claimed by claim 27. Claim 30 is directed to a cap, liner, disk and bottle neck combination where the disk has a circular ridge and a slot formed across the ridge. The liner has a hole through its thickness and is sandwiched between the ridge and the rim of the bottle neck. A disk having a ridge and a slot there through is disclosed in FIGS. 12 and 13. A liner having a hole through its thickness is disclosed in FIG. 7. As such, the subject matter of claim 30 is already disclosed in the drawings pending in this application. FIG. 14 discloses the combination of bottle neck, cap and disk having a plurality of grooves extending outwardly beyond the rim of the bottle neck as claimed in claim 32 as now pending in this application. FIG. 10 has been amended to correct the lead line from reference numeral 344. FIG. 11 has been amended to include a reference numeral 344 and a corresponding lead line. FIG. 12 has been amended to include reference numerals 48 and 344 and their corresponding lead lines.

The Examiner objected to the title as not being descriptive. The title has been amended accordingly.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-8, 15-18, 36 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The appropriate claims have been amended to overcome these rejections.

The Examiner stated claims 3-5 and 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all the limitations of their base claims any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4 and to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As such, applicant submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claim 4 has been amended to require that a slot in each ridge is aligned with a slot in a

consecutive ridge for defining a single slot across the consecutive ridges. Claims 3-8 are all dependent from claim 1. As such, applicant submits that claims 3-8 also in condition for allowance as being dependent from an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations they contain therein.

The Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brownbill. Claim 15 has been amended to now require a plurality of concentric circular ridges and a slot form across each of the plurality of ridges. Moreover, claim 15 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Brownbill discloses what may be considered a circular ridge having a slot formed there through. Brownbill, however, does not disclose a plurality of concentric circular ridges wherein a slot is formed across each of the plurality of ridges. As such, applicant submits that claim 15 is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner objected to claims 11, 12, 21, 22, 34 and 39 but stated that these claims would be allowable in rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 11, 12, 21 and 22 have been written in independent form to include the limitations of their base claims. Claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of its dependent claim 34. Claim 37 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of its dependent claim 39. As such, applicant submits that claims 11, 12, 21, 22, 24, 32 and 37 are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner stated that claim 36 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 36 has been amended accordingly. As such, applicant submits that claim 36 is also in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 9, 10, 19, 20, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Montgomery. Montgomery

discloses a cap having radially extending grooves formed on the cap inner surface. The radially extending grooves are relatively short, as for example shown by reference numeral 44 in FIGS. 1 and 2, and span only a portion of the cap top portion inner surface proximate the bottle neck rim.

Claims 9 and 10 as now amended are directed to a bottle cap having a top portion and an annular wall extending from the top portion as well as a groove which is formed on the inner surface of the top portion and which extends chordwise from a first point adjacent to the annular wall to a second point adjacent to the annular wall. Montgomery does not disclose a chordwise groove that extends along the inner surface of the top portion between two points adjacent to the cap annular wall. As such, applicant submits that claims 9 and 10 are allowable over Montgomery.

Claims 19 and 20 are directed to a vented bottle cap system comprising a cap having a top portion inner surface having a groove formed on the inner surface which extends outwardly beyond two locations of the rim. Montgomery discloses short radial grooves wherein each groove extends outward beyond only one location of the rim. The grooves disclosed by Montgomery are not long enough to extend outward beyond two locations of the rim. As such, applicant submits that claims 19 and 20 are also allowable over Montgomery.

Claims 25 and 26 are directed to a method for venting gases generated in a bottle. The method requires the steps of providing a cap having a groove formed on the inner surface of the cap and torquing the cap on the bottle causing the inner surface of the cap top portion to sit on the rim of the bottle, wherein the groove extends outwardly beyond two locations on the rim. As such, for the reasons provided for the allowability of claims 19 and 20 over Montgomery, applicant submits that claims 25 and 26 are also allowable over Montgomery.

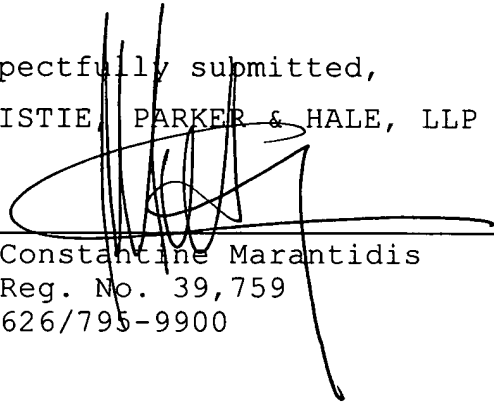
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Claims 41-47 have been added. Claims 41-47 do not add any new matter.

The rejections and objections to all claims pending in this application are now believed to have been overcome and this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner however, have any remaining questions or concerns about the allowability of this application, the Examiner is kindly requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss them.

Respectfully submitted,
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FIG. 10

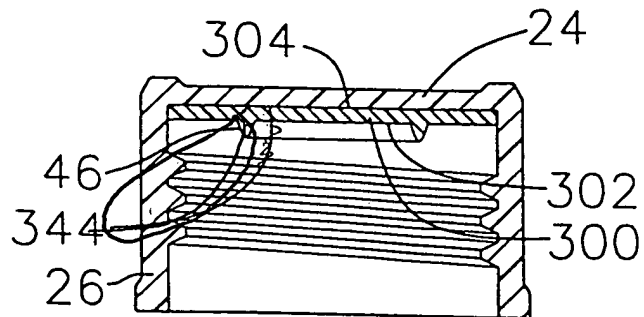


FIG. 11

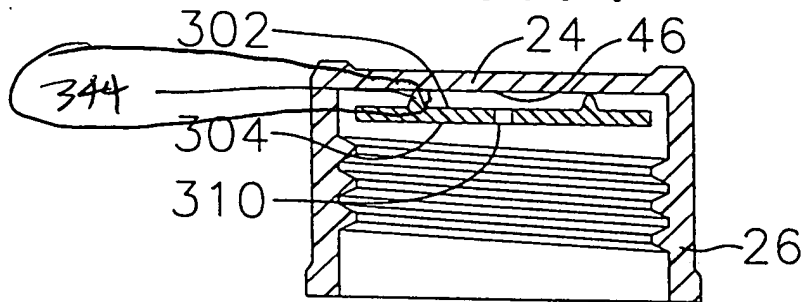


FIG. 12

